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| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/749,717  | 12/31/2003  | Riccardo Comini      | Wdhd 240            | 9219             |
| 7590  | 12/06/2004  |                      | EXAMINER            |                  |
| James J. Hill, Esq.<br>Ste. 3000<br>300 South Wacker Drive<br>Chicago, IL 60606 |             |                      | HYEON, HAE M        |                  |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                      | 2839                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 12/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/749,717

Applicant(s)

COMINI, RICCARDO

Examiner

Hae M Hyeon

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8, 10 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7, 9, 11 and 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 December 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/9/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION*****Drawings***

1. The drawings are objected to because the reference number 10 is pointing both cable and contact holder in Figure 1A. Also, "a conventional printed circuit board 87" described on page 11, line 14 is not shown in the drawing. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: **A slot 74** described on page 10, line 6. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the

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sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "87" has been used to designate both conventional printed circuit board and peripheral gasket. Also, the reference number "25" has been used to designate both stop and far wall of the band.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Specification***

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

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- Page 4, line 15 recites, "A conventional casing 42," but page 9, line 5 recites, "The housing 42." The terminology for the same element should be consistent through out the present specification.
- Page 5, line 7 recites, " A gasket 87," but page 11, line 17 recites, "A peripheral gasket 87."
- Page 6, line 12 recites, "a blade contact 28," but line 21 recites, "metal contact 28" and page 7, lines 9-10 recites, "the fixed blade contact 28."
- Page 8, line 11 recites, "retainer member 9." It seems that it should be -- retainer member 92 --.
- Page 8, lines 20-21 recites, "An annular flexible gasket 50," but page 12, line 21 recites, "the grommet 50."
- Page 9, line 11 recites, "a flat peripheral portion 59," but page 11, line 14 recites, "the lid 59."
- Page 9, line 19 recites, "a flat central engagement portion 64," but line 20 recites, "the central portion 64" and page 11, line 3-4 recites, "central engagement portion 64" and line 10 recites, "The portion 64."
- Page 9, line 21 recites, "contact areas or pads 69, 70," but page 10, line 1 recites, "The contact portions 69, 70" and line 5 recites, "the pads 69, 70."
- Page 10, line 1 recites, "an enlarged opening 71," but line 3 recites, "the enlarged slot 71."
- The last paragraph on page 10 describes "the contact holder 43" in line 17 and "the contact holder 18" in line 18. It is not clear whether this paragraph is describing the first

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embodiment with the contact holder 18 or the second embodiment with the contact holder 43.

- Page 12, line 18, the examiner suggests the applicant to insert -- gasket -- in front of “retainer 92.”
- The terminology for the same element should be consistent through out the present specification.
- The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Objections*

5. Claims 1-13 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- Claim 1, line 16-17, “a mating connector” should be -- said mating connector -- since the mating connector is introduce in line 13.
- Claim 1 recites the limitation "said central opening" in line 18. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- Claim 2, lines 3-4, “a connector element of a mating connector” should be -- said connector element of said mating connector -- since the connector element of the mating connector is introduce in claim 1, lines 16-17.
- Claim 4, line 2, it seems that “a receptacle” should be -- said receptacles --.
- Claim 11, line 2, “a cable” should be -- said cable --.

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- The examiner suggests the applicant to change “band” recited in claims 1-13 to --  
conductive band --.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

7. Claims 8, 9 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claims 8 and 13 recite, “a **body** supporting said mating connector.” It is not clear what is this “body” since the present specification does not describe the body supporting the mating connector clearly. Also, the present specification does not describe “a base” of the pedestal recited in claim 9.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1-6, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wittes (4,213,667).

Wittes discloses an electrical connector comprising a casing 13 including an intake for receiving a cable C having a plurality of wires E, a contact holder 86 for each of the wires E and including a receptacle 96, a connector assembly including a conductive band 104, a threaded member 120 and a contact element 122. The connector assembly is seated in each of the receptacles 96. Each connector assembly comprises the conductive band 104 having four walls 106 defining an opening (see Fig. 9) to receive an associated wires and first and second opposing portion. The first portion has an internally threaded aperture 118 (see Fig. 9) for receiving the threaded member 120. The contact element 122 comprises a generally flat metal member having first and second depending legs 122a with a pad (see Female Connector 11 in Fig. 1) spaced apart to receive in electrical contacting relation with a connector element of a mating connector. The contact element 122 also includes a barbed section for engaging opposite walls 100 of the receptacle 96 of the contact holder 12 and first and second outwardly extending tabs 125 for engaging shoulder portions of the receptacle 96 of the contact holder 12 (see Fig. 2). A wire E is placed in the opening of the conductive band 104 between the second portion of the conductive band 104 and the contact element 122. The threaded member 120 is tightened to force the contact element 122 against the inserted wire E to establish electrical continuity between a wire E of the cable C and an associated contact element 122 of the connector.



***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wittes.

While Wittes does not disclose means for sealing the cable to the intake as recited in claim 10 and four individual conductive bands arranged in quadrature about the contact holder 86 as recited in claim 12, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the connector taught by Wittes to provide a sealing means because the seal means is common knowledge and to provide four conductive bands because it only deals with a duplication of part.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

12. Claims 7, 9, 11 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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US Patent No. 4,460,235 by Gelin, US Patent No. 5,664,971 by Coy, US Patent No. 6,312,296 by Jones, US Patent No. 6,315,615 B1 by Raistrick, and US Patent No. 6,764,355 B2 by Ude et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hae M Hyeon whose telephone number is 571-272-2093. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. (8:30-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tulsidas C Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hae M Hyeon  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2839

hnh hnh

*Hae Moon Hyeon*